



Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

MINUTES

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Attendance: Lisa Terry, Jonathan Branch, Craig Porterfield, Alison Buckley, Robert Gillette, Janice Agazio, J. Greg Jolissaint, Wanda Riddle, Robert Lowell, Howard Mooney, Mike Blum Guests: Ed A. Hall (Joint Military Council), Tom Glenn (author), Tracy Adkins (Blue Star Families, Active Duty Military Spouse), Calvin Ball (Vice-Chair Howard County Council), George Matthews (TAPS program Fort Meade) Chris Yates, Austin Morrison (representative from Senator Chris Van Hollen), Kim Pruim (assistant to Mr. Ball)

Meeting was called to order at 1900 by Howard. Special guest Councilman Calvin Ball was recognized. Mr. Ball stated that he was there to see how he could help the commission, since we are still relatively new. He mentioned Council Bill 40 which deals with hiring practices for veterans. Also an event, Marching Our Veterans Back to Work, which provides suits for veterans going to interviews. Special guest Tracy Adkins explained the mission of Blue Star Families and provided a brochure entitled a Snapshot of the Military Lifestyle. Stated that money provided for Blue Star families is by donors, and the organization is completely vetted.

OLD BUSINESS: A motioned was asked by Howard to approve the February minutes. Minutes were read and motioned for approval by Wanda, seconded by Greg. Future meeting dates are April 4 (Veterans Fair), May 4, June 1. Traditionally the commission takes July and August off.

Update on Veterans Resource fair: Lisa said that roughly around 45 vendors are confirmed. The vendors are wide ranging this year. Tom Glenn is scheduled to speak as keynote and in one of the breakout session. Still waiting on the county executive to confirm. The color guard, VA Specialist has been confirmed. Ed offered to contact Mission BBQ about donating a door prize. Also the mobile van is scheduled to be there. Library of Congress Veterans History project is scheduled to be there. Spouses of veterans are encouraged to attend.

Veteran commission business cards were delivered during the meeting

George Matthews made a presentation describing the Soldier for Life –Transition Assistance Program at Fort Meade

Update for Veterans Monument was given by Bob. Terms were finalized with the Howard Hughes Corporation on the MOU. The Howard County student with the parking project wants to donate his leftover money to the veterans project.

Update on Veterans Reserve Parking Project: Turf Valley has two new signs now

Mike and Lisa provided updates for Veterans Day activities for Howard County Schools. Calvin said that he and the council chairman meet regularly with the Board of Education, and they can put the commission's concern on their agenda.

Bob provided an update on the Veteran's Treatment Court. He mentioned that Frederick has one as well as Baltimore City.

Wanda provided a briefing of her visit to Ms. Keida Murray's office

NEW BUSINESS: Howard asked members to look for events that we should be involved with for Memorial Day. Ed mentioned that the VFW usually has a Memorial Day service. Calvin mentioned that the HCPD usually has a wreath laying ceremony and 5K run.

Ed informed the commission that the American Legion will have a flag retirement ceremony at the VFW Hall. The county executive will be there. Over 1572 flags have been retired since the program has been initiated. Also an Open House for a venturing group for "young pups" Focus: marksmanship. On 30 Mar, will be giving a presentation to the residents of Millers Grant.

Austin Morriion introduced herself as a veteran's caseworker for Senator Van Hollen's office

Meeting adjourned at 2000

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch